FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 FEBRUARY 1985

Egypt-Israel

Reacting to a call by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, in a *NEW YORK TIMES* interview, for Middle East negotiations between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation hosted by the United States or Egypt, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said Israel must subject Mubarak's proposal to a "positive and precise" examination, and he added that Israel accepts the idea of direct negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided it does not include PLO representatives, according to Jerusalem radio. Israeli political sources cited by the radio subsequently welcomed Mubarak's ideas as the "first practical proposals" by an Arab leader for direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors.

In a related development, Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz denied reports that he would visit Israel for talks with Prime Minister Peres, Jerusalem radio disclosed. However, Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal was dispatched by Peres to Cairo for preliminary Middle East talks with President Mubarak, the radio noted.

Israel

An explosion wounded two people in Ashdod on 26 February and police think it was caused by a "terrorist" device, IDF radio reported.

Lebanon

Two car-bomb explosions in the Al-Shiyah district of southern Beirut killed 6 people and wounded 30 others, Beirut radio announced. The explosions followed clashes between Amal movement and Hizballah gunmen in southern Beirut, reported by Voice of Lebanon radio.

In southern Lebanon the IDF searched two more villages, arresting several suspected terrorists and demolishing a house where equipment was found, according to Israeli military sources cited by ITIM. Three "terrorists" were injured while trying to escape, the sources disclosed.

Iran

The Foreign Ministry presented the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires with a formal note, broadcast by Tehran Radio, protesting the imprisonment and "torture" by Kuwaiti security authorities of five Iranians living in Kuwait.

Afghanistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by BAKHTAR, accused Pakistan of sending troops across the border on 23 February for an attack on Barikowt garrison in which 9 Afghans were killed or wounded.

Pakistan

Following the completion of the 25 February National Assembly elections the Federal Cabinet was dissolved, Karachi radio reported. Ministers who had not participated in the elections were asked to remain in office until a new government is formed, the radio added. Incidents connected with the 25 February polling were reported in various areas including the death of two people in Sahiwal during a clash between rival groups, the radio acknowledged.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address to Black Americans

Libya is prepared to "train and arm" black Americans in their "struggle" to establish an independent state and army, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told the "Nation of Islam" conference in Chicago in a satellite-relayed address reported by Tripoli radio.

Sudan

"Several thousand" Equatoria citizens recently joined the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces, the clandestine SPLA radio reported.

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Karmal Sends Condolences on Official's Death
LD251929 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The DRA Revolutionary Council Secretariat reports with profound regret that Muhammad Sa'id Afghani, member of the Revolutionary Council, deputy chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Fatherland Front, and president of the Supreme Council of the ulema and religious leaders of the DRA, died this morning in the DRA Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences Hospital as a result of a heart attack following a lengthy illness. He was 63 years old.

Hearing the news of the death of Dr Sa'id Afghani, Babrak Karmal expressed his regret and offered his condolences to the religious community of the country and to Afghani's family. Dr Sa'id Afghani's funeral will be held tomorrow.

Najibullah Attends Meetings in Paktia, Paktika
LD230550 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Najibullah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo recently took part in the tribal assembly of the elders, leaders and representatives of the working people of the 14 villages of the center of Paktia Province in Gardez. During this assembly, Najibullah invited the representatives of these villages' tribes to make their proposals and demands in a free and democratic atmosphere. In return, on behalf of the working people of these villages, Senator Bahram, Haji Kandahar, Haji Fayz Muhammad and Haji Abdurrahman presented their proposals and demands for solving local problems and the necessary decisions were adopted regarding them in a free and democratic atmosphere.

During the tribal assembly, Najibullah spoke on the progressive objectives of the revolutionary party and government and expressed hope that all tribes and nationalities of the country would share the advantages of a prosperous life envisaged in the principled policy of the party and government in light of the new development stage of the April Revolution. He added that at this sensitive period in the country, where an undeclared war was waged against our people and homeland by the reaction of the region at the orders of their imperialist masters, headed by U.S. imperialism, it is the historical duty of all our working people to bravely defend the gains of the April Revolution in a united manner and under the leadership of the PDPA.

At the end of this tribal assembly, attended also by the head of the southeastern zone, the participants pledged that the Paktia Province tribes and nationalities, in unity and under the leadership of the PDPA, are ready for self-sacrifice in defense of the country and the gains of the April Revolution.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Gardez that on 20 February Najibullah also took part in the meeting of officials of the Paktia Province party and government joint headquarters, which was held in that province. At the session, Najibullah spoke and specified the tasks of relevant organs in attracting and ensuring the active participation of the border tribes in intensifying political and ideological work among the tribes and nationalities, defense of the country's borders and in the struggle against the counterrevolutionary elements.

Minister of agriculture and land reform, Abdul Ghaffar Lakanwal; minister of public works, Nazar Muhammad; minister of irrigation and water resources, Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi; minister of public health, Nabi Kamyar; commander of Paktia Province Army Corps No 3, Brigadier General Muhammad Afzal Ludin; head of the southeastern zone, Major General Ghulam Nabi Yusofi; and the secretary of the Paktia Province party committee attended the session.

According to another report, the meeting of officials of the Paktika Province party and government joint headquarters was held yesterday.

The session, which was attended by Najibullah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, specified the future duties of the officials of the party and state organs and necessary decisions were adopted concerning the work and activities of these headquarters.

Najibullah and his accompanying delegation also visited the units and companies of Paktika Province's Sarandoy and operational battalion and spoke to the officers and troops on the great tasks ahead of them in defense of the lofty aspirations of the April Revolution.

Sarboland Takes Part in Nurzaii Tribal Jirga
LD252217 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Abdul Majid Sarboland, deputy chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, took part today in a tribal jirga of the elders and leaders of the Nurzaii tribes. Brigadier General Muhammad, head of the southern zone, was also present.

During the jirga, Abdul Majid Sarboland conveyed warm greetings and good wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to the elders and leaders of the Nurzaii tribe, and in a friendly and sincere statement told them:

The PDPA and the DRA state want to solve the problems and difficulties of the people through discussions and the formation of tribal jirgas and local councils and in this way achieve further successes in maintaining security, tranquillity, and prosperity for the people with their own help.

In light of Babrak Karmal's instructions, Abdul Majid Sarboland said: The party and state make every effort to implement plans in all areas of life, including the economic, social, and cultural areas, with your help and participation for the interests of our working compatriots.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the jirga the audience spoke of a series of problems and proposals; Sarboland gave the local party and state authorities instructions for solving them.

Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani Attacks
LD251408 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, 25 Feb, (BAKHTAR) — The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this morning at 1030 local time and the following statement was made to him by the official in charge of the First Political Department:

The relevant authorities of the DRA report that the aggressor Pakistani forces, despite repeated warnings and protests by the DRA, continue their savage and irresponsible attacks on Barikowt region, Konar Province.

As a result of the firing of heavy weapons such as recoilless rifles, mortars and heavy machineguns by Pakistani forces on Barikowt on 18 Feb, one child was wounded and homes in the area were severely damaged.

According to another report, Pakistani authorities have recently increased such savage aggression. In addition to such repeated shellings as well as arming and sending bandits to murder and destroy, Pakistani forces stationed near the territory of the DRA from time to time sneak across the border and carry out savage attacks. On 23 Feb at 0800 one Pakistani unit composed of 400 men crossed the border and shamelessly opened heavy weapons' fire on Barikowt garrison. Regretfully, as a result of this irresponsible and savage attack, five garrison personnel were martyred and four others severely wounded.

The DRA strongly denounces and condemns such aggressive and irresponsible actions by the aggressor Pakistani forces which are carried out by the orders of the military authorities of that country against the DRA and strongly protests against it to the Government of Pakistan. The DRA again demands from Pakistani authorities that such savage aggression and attacks against the DRA stop as soon as possible, otherwise the responsibility for the attacks along with the grave and heavy consequences rest with the military authorities of Pakistan.

Mangal Departs To Sign Agreement With USSR
LD251919 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee, heading a delegation to sign an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union, left for Moscow today. Deputy Prime Minister Gol Dad, some members of the State Planning Committee, and the Economic Counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul were present at Kabul International Airport to see off the delegation.

Industry Ministry Signs Gas Agreement With USSR
LD252011 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Some 2.4 billion square meters of natural gas will be exported from the gas mines of Khwaja Gogirdak and Jar Quduq, Jowzjan Province, to the Soviet Union during the current Christian year by way of the aerial passage over the Amu Darya in the Keleft.

An agreement on the export of gas from the DRA to the Soviet Union was signed yesterday in Kabul between the Ministry of Mines and Industries and the Soyuzgazeksport.

Quoting a source of the Ministry of Mines and Industries, a BIA correspondent reports that the revenue earned from the export of gas to the Soviet Union constitutes a major part of the national income of the DRA and gives great impetus to the growth of the country's national economy, finance of economic projects and the purchase of material and equipment for Afghan industrial establishments.

In addition to all economic and technical aids to Afghanistan, the Soviet Union trains a large number of Afghan experts and workers in the oil and gas field and has extended necessary economic and technical assistance to our country in the extraction and exploitation of gas since 1958, as a result of which seven oil fields and seven gas fields have been discovered, established, and reserved in the country's northern parts.

The source said that the Khwaja Gogirdak mine has been exploited since 1968 and the Jar Quduq mine became productive in 1978. The exports from these mines to the Soviet Union have constituted the major part of the country's national revenue.

The source added that, despite the shameless interferences of imperialism and reaction, construction of an oil refinery is under study by the Ministry of Mines and Industries. Great successes in discovering natural gas have been achieved as a result of the revolutionary work and struggle of our toiling workers and the cooperation of the experts of the friendly USSR in the construction of Bashi Kot and Jangal-e Kalan-e Shabarghan.

The source added that, notwithstanding the uproar of the imperialist and reactionary circles concerning the natural gas in our country, it should be stated with complete confidence that the price of the country's natural gas is equivalent with international prices and is so in the interest of both Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The contract was signed by the head of the Extraction and Export of Gas Department and the first deputy of the Soyuzgazeksport of the Soviet Union.

Rebels Arrested in Ghurian, Kuhestan Districts
LD251136 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Kabul, February 24, BAKHTAR — Some 45 counter-revolutionaries who were linked with the criminal band of Jami'at were crushed and 3 of the cut throats were arrested during a successful operation of the security forces of the DRA, in close cooperation with the inhabitants in Ghurian and Kuhestan Districts, west of Afghanistan.

In this operation a large number of assorted weapons including light and heavy [word indistinct] mortars, heavy machineguns,

Kalashnikovs, anti-tank mines, motor cycles and other vehicles bearing U.S., Chinese and Egyptian marks were seized from them by the security forces of the DRA.

Rebel Band Surrenders, Changes Sides in Parwan

LD252213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] A seven-man group, which was for some time active with the Jam'iat band in the villages of the Jabal os Saraj District, Parwan Province, utilizing the DRA Revolutionary Council's amnesty decree recently surrendered to the district security authorities and gave up their weapons.

A BAKHTAR information agency correspondent reports that this seven-man group, expressing repentance at their past actions, promised to defend the gains of the April Revolution and its new stage of development to the end of their lives and take part in the just struggle of the Afghanistan people against the murderous bands.

Deeg Curfew Extended; District Said 'Peaceful'

BK251629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] In Rajasthan, the curfew in the Deeg town of Bharatpur District has been extended till 1900 [1330 GMT] tomorrow. It will be relaxed from 0700 to 0900 tomorrow to enable the people to buy necessities. It was relaxed for a few hours this morning also.

According to official sources, the situation throughout the district remained peaceful today.

In Bharatpur, where prohibitory orders are in force, special arrangements were made by the district authorities for taking the urns containing the ashes of the late Mr Man Singh. A wreath was placed on the urns at Gobardhan on behalf of the chief minister, Mr Heera Lal Deo Pura. Thirty-eight persons have been arrested so far in Bharatpur in connection with yesterday's attack on a police station and police outpost. Three preventive arrests have also been made in Deeg.

According to reports reaching Jaipur, a bundh [strike] was observed at Bikaner, Ajmer, and Jodhpur in protest against the incident at Bharatpur. Processions were also taken out in Bikaner and Jaipur. In Jodhpur, nine persons, including three policemen, were killed in a clash between processionists and police.

Deeg Inquiry Ordered

BK260358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Rajasthan chief minister, Mr Heera Lal Deo Pura, has said a magisterial inquiry will be ordered into the circumstances leading to Sunday's police firing in Bharatpur District. Talking to newsmen in Chitorgarh, he said four people were killed and several policemen, including the DIG [deputy inspector general] Bharatpur, were injured in the incident. The chief minsiter hoped that normalcy would return to Bharatpur district in a day or two.

Students Demonstrate Against Reservation Policy

Gujarat 'Peaceful'

BK251647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] The situation in Gujarat in the wake of the agitation against the reservation policy [for backward people] of the state government was peaceful today except for a few incidents.

In Baroda, two buses were set on fire and one was damaged in stone-throwing by students. In Surat, one bus was set on fire and five were damaged.

Briefing newsmen in Ahmedabad this evening, the state home minister, Mr Prabodh Raval, said there was poor response to the call for the Ahmedabad bundh [strike].

Meanwhile, a division bench of the Gujarat high court today asked the secondary school board and Gujarat University to review their decision to close secondary schools and colleges in Ahmedabad till the 15th of next month. The bench called for the review because of the peaceful situation in the city. Educational institutions in the city remained closed today.

200 Injured in Bhopal

BK260409 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In Bhopal, police resorted to lathi [baton] charge to disperse student agitators protesting against the reservation policy [for the backward class of people]. According to UNI, more than 200 persons, including 50 policemen, were injured in stone-throwing. A police vehicle was damaged. Five of the injured have been admitted to hospital.

There are also reports of violent incidents in Chatarpur. The state chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, has again appealed to the students to end their (?strife) and resolve the issue through negotiations.

2-Month Night Curfew Ordered in Manipur

BK260432 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In Manipur, night curfew has been imposed in the 20 km border area in (Uker) District. It will remain in force for 2 months. PTI, quoting official sources, said the curfew follows reports of movement of insurgent elements in the area.

Tamil Refugee Population Reaches 10,000

BK260424 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] More Sri Lanka Tamil refugees are arriving in Rameswaram following increased violence by the Army in Sri Lanka. About 400 refugees reached Rameswaram in boats yesterday. With this, the number of refugees has gone up to 10,000 since early this month.

3 Underground Nagas Killed in Nagaland 23 Feb

BK231314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] In Nagaland, three underground Nagas have been killed and two others arrested today when the armed police raided their hideout 26 km from Dimapur. One Havildar [police officer] was killed and one subinspector of police received injuries in the operation. The deputy commissioner, Kohima, told our correspondent that the underground Nagas belong to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland. He said they were responsible for the recent bank dacoity [robbery] at Dimapur.

Espionage Scandal Suspects Retract Statements

HK221534 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 22 (AFP) — Five suspects arrested in India's spy scandal today retracted confessional statements and told a court here that they had made them under duress, including physical torture, while under custody.

All five were junior government officials: S. Sankaran, aide to President Giani Zail Singh's press secretary, P. Gopalan and Swaminath Ram, both from Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Secretariat, Ashok Kumar, also from the president's Secretariat, and another official, H.N. Chaturvedi.

Fourteen government officials and three businessmen, all Indians, have been arrested following the barring of the scandal, which reportedly involves the sale of industrial secrets to foreign powers, in mid-January.

The five said that they wished to retract earlier admissions when they were produced in a pre-trial hearing before additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Bharat Bhushan, who remanded them to further judicial custody for 12 more days till March 6.

They all applied to the magistrate to withdraw the statements.

Mr. Sankaran said "I made the statement under duress and heavy pressure... I was mentally and physically tortured. I was made to write so many things which I am not aware of." The others made similar complaints before the court.

Mr. Bhushan fixed February 26 to hear their applications.

Only Coomar Narayan, a businessman originally reported to be the kingpin in the scandal, has stuck by his confession. Two other accused had earlier said they wished to make confessional statements but changed their minds.

On Wednesday, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted intelligence sources as saying that Bombay-based industrialist Yogesh Maneklal was emerging as the real mastermind in India's spy scandal and that Mr. Narayan was just working under his direction.

Meanwhile, President Zail Singh for the first time made an indirect reference to the spying scandal today.

Now on a visit to the Indian-held Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, Mr. Singh said the government would crush what he called the anti-national and secessionist forces trying to weaken the country, PTI reported.

He told a public function there that there were individuals who were prepared to sell the country and destroy its integrity to achieve their narrow objectives. "We must fight them," he added.

Observers saw his mention of a sell-out as a clear reference to the spying scandal.

By secessionist elements, he apparently meant the Punjabi Sikh militants demanding greater political autonomy or the even more militant group wanting a separate Sikh state, they said. Mr Singh himself is a devout Sikh and comes from Punjab.

Delhi: 7 Killed During Pakistani Elections

BK260336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In Pakistan, at least seven persons were killed in violence during polling for the National Assembly yesterday. Of them, three died when rival groups exchanged fire in Arifwala, southwest of Lahore, and Rori in Sind Province. Two others were killed and four injured in clashes in Sahibwal near Islamabad. In Lahore, opposition supporters set fire to two buses, and another procession in Peshawar was dispersed by the police. A number of people were taken into custody. Reports say the opposition could mount only a few scattered protests yesterday, because most of their leaders are in jail.

Meanwhile, three prominent members of General Ziaul Haq's cabinet are reported trailing behind their rivals as counting of votes continues. The Pakistan defense minister, Mr Ali Ahmad Talpur, was fighting a losing battle against a Sind minister, Kazi Abid. The information minister, Raja Zafarul Haq, was trailing his rival, Air Commodore (Khakan Abbasi). The minister for culture, Mr Arbab Niaz Mohammad, was reported to be far behind an unknown advocate of Peshawar. Results of three constituencies have been announced so far.

Reports are still not clear how many people voted in the elections in the face of the opposition call for a boycott. President Ziaul Haq said he hoped that polling will be between 40 and 50 percent. Reports suggest that the turn out was about 25 percent in Karachi, 30 percent in Lahore, and 50 in rural Punjab.

Further Report on Elections

BK260745 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] In the Pakistan National Assembly elections, the minister for defense, labor, and culture and the presidential adviser on internal trade have been defeated. According to the provisional results available, two other ministers — those for railways and communications — were among the successful candidates. The leading candidates for the Jamiat Islami close to President Zia have lost. One of them is the mayor of Karachi. Earlier reports say the information minister was trailing, nearing his nearest rival by about 3,000 votes. The Election Commission authorities say it will take several hours to tabulate the full results.

Preliminary reports estimate a heavy voter turnout in some areas. Reports from Peshawar bordering Afghanistan, however, say the percentage of voting was not more than 15. In the outlying areas of Northwest Frontier Province it ranges between 15 and 20 percent.

Federal Cabinet Dissolved; Ministers To Stay

BK260401 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The present Federal Cabinet has been dissolved. A press note issued by the Cabinet division says that the Cabinet stands dissolved with effect from this afternoon on completion of the elections to the National Assembly. The press note adds that in the public interest and in order to carry on the day to day business of the government, however, the president has asked some ministers and ministers of state who have not participated in elections to the National Assembly to remain in office until the formation of a new government.

The federal ministers who will continue in their office area: Dr Mohammad Afzal, Mr Ghulam Ishaq, Vice Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Lieutenant General Farooq Shaukat Khan Lodhi, Lt Gen Said Mian, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and Lt Gen Said Qadir. Mr Sartaz Aziz and Dr Mohammad Assad Khan will continue in their offices as ministers of state. The president has also asked Mr Habib D. Habib, Dr Attiya Inayatullah, Dr M.A. Kazi, and Begun Viqarun Nias to continue in their office as advisers to the president. Mr Kamdar Zakaria has been asked to continue in office as adviser to the Ministry of Minorities and Religious Affairs.

Karachi Reports on Election Voting, First Results

BK251615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Polling was held for the National Assembly elections today in an orderly and peaceful manner. It started at 0800 in the morning and continued without any break until the scheduled time of 1700 in the evening. The weather, too, was very pleasant today. However, those who were within the premises of the voting stations before the end of scheduled time were allowed some more time to cast their votes in accordance with the law. As was reported earlier, the voting was brisk even at the beginning. As the day passed, people in large numbers came to the more than 25,000 voting stations set up throughout the country. People in large numbers cast their votes, particularly in the afternoon. The voters arrived at the voting stations with whatever means of transportation were available to them and on foot.

A Radio Pakistan correspondent says that the enthusiasm created among the voters by the 5-week electioneering was reflected throughout the day, and people in large numbers cast their votes both in urban and rural areas. Women voters also enthusiastically participated in the voting. Similar enthusiasm was also noted among members of minority communities, who cast their votes to elect their representatives for seats reserved for the minorities. A noteworthy aspect of today's polling was that aged and disabled persons also showed interest in it. A number of them were carried by their relatives to the voting booths where they cast their votes.

Counting of votes cast throughout the day started immediately after the voting was over. Anytime tonight, unofficial results of various constituencies will reach the Election Commission Secretariat in Islamabad, where special telephone, telex, and radio facilities have been provided for the media for immediate dissemination of reports. The first preliminary results of the National Assembly elections have been received. The results relate to Electoral Constituency No. Na28, tribal area 2:

Total number of Muslim votes: 1,393

Total votes cast:
—Valid: 833
—Rejected: 1
Total: 834
Percentage of votes cast: 69.87

As has been reported earlier, the total number of seats in the new National Assembly will be 237. Seven candidates have already been elected unopposed. The selection of women members for their 20 reserved seats will be made by National Assembly members. According to the province-by-province breakdown of the Muslim seats, 572 candidates ran in the elections for 115 National Assembly seats in Punjab, 238 candidates for the 46 seats in Sind, 209 candidates for 34 seats in Northwest Frontier Province, 69 candidates for 11 seats in Baluchistan, and 15 candidates for 1 Muslim seat in the federal capital of Islamabad ran in the elections. There were 60 candidates in the fray for 10 reserved seats for non-Muslims.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was among the first to cast a vote in Rawalpindi. Later, he visited polling camps of various candidates and mixed with people present there. He expressed the hope that the people will be satisfied with the poll arrangements. The president was told that the people were satisfied with the arrangements. During a brief chat with newsmen this morning the president was told that so far nearly 33 percent of votes were cast in various constituencies of the Rawalpindi city and cantonment area. In reply to a question on the future National Assembly, the president said that the National Assembly will enjoy full powers. About the cases filed against some candidates for violating election laws, the president said that these cases will not be withdrawn and action will be taken in accordance with the law.

Disturbances Reported

BK251741 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1704 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Some incidents have been reported from different parts of the country in connection with the polling. In Karachi, four persons have been sentenced to imprisonment for 1 year and 15 lashes each by a military court for attempting to create law and order situation and disturb the poll. In Mirpur Khas, in a scuffle at a polling station between two rival groups one person sustained knife injuries. In village (Terekhpur Lagari) in (Begri) Taluka [revenue district] two unknown persons fired in the air. One person received minor injury. In Lahore, four supporters of a candidate have been arrested. They will be tried by a special military court tonight. Three persons were injured as a result of the incident. One of them died and other two are in serious condition. In a clash in Jacobabad between rival groups seven persons received injuries of lathis [batons] and blows in (Thal) Taluka.

In (Campkot) Taluka nine persons received minor injuries in a scuffle. In (Kashnor) Taluka six persons were in a clash. As a result of summary military trial three persons were sentenced to 3 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 rupees each. The remaining three persons were sentenced to 6 months rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 rupees each. In Khairpur, firing took place at a polling station in Kot Diji Taluka, injuring one person. One ASI [Assistant Subinspector] and four other persons were injured due to firing. Two of them were admitted to hospital and the remaining were released after first aid. Seven persons were arrested and will be tried by a summary military court tonight. In Sahiwal, two persons have been killed in a firing incident in a clash between the supporters of rival candidates. Two persons have been arrested and two weapons of offense recovered. Polling resumed almost immediately after the incidents and continued peacefully thereafter. The SP [Superintendent of Police] has been directed by the DMLA [Deputy Martial Law Administrator], Multan, to finalize investigations within 3 days and the case will be taken to a special military court for trial.

One presiding officer of constituency No. 132, Sahiwal, was suspended for negligence of duty and inquiry was instituted against 10 for the loss of a bag containing ballot papers. The ballot papers were subsequently recovered untampered. Polling was however commenced on time as ballot paper from reserve stock was sent to the polling station. In Peshawar, one lady assistant presiding officer at polling station Tahkal Bala was caught red-handed marking ballot papers in favor of one contesting candidate. Prompt action was taken and she was suspended straightaway. In Jhang, polling was adjourned at a polling station due to clash between rival groups. Eight persons were injured.

BBC Reports 'Relative Peace'

BK251237 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 25 Feb 85

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The elections in Pakistan — the first to be held in nearly 8 years — have taken place amidst uncertainty about the turnout because of the elections boycott by opposition parties. Hundreds of political leaders were in detention as the country went to vote. The polling has now ended and within the last few moments our correspondent in Islamabad, Alex Brodie, came on the line to give us this report:

[Begin Brodie recording] The polls closed a few minutes ago and it looks as if the military regime has managed to hold its non-party elections in relative peace. First reports speak of attempts to hold protests in the cities of Peshawar and Lahore. There is no news yet from the province of Sind, where the regime concentrated its security operations, or Karachi, where troops moved into the city before the elections. Antigovernment feeling is strongest in Sind. In the city of Lahore, at least three attempts were made to hold protest demonstrations. Several hundred people gathered. Police baton charged them. The protests were broken up and some of the few political leaders who had managed to escape arrest were detained. Virtually all the opposition leaders had been detained before election day. Bands of young men on motor scooters reportedly attacked and tried to set on fire four government buses. They were chased off by police. In the frontier city of Peshawar, a small protest was broken up and a few people arrested. In the city of Rawalpindi, which I toured, there were no signs of the irregularities which occurred during the referendum in December. Candidates' representatives were on hand to watch over each other. Identity seemed to be being well checked. Voters did seem to need to be on the electoral list to be allowed to vote. [end recording]

Further Results Reported

BK251055 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] With the provisional results relating to only four Muslim constituencies still to come, a fair idea can now be formed of the composition of the National Assembly elected in yesterday's general elections in the country. As the chief election commissioner said in an interview with Radio Pakistan this morning, the year 1985 will be long remembered as the year of free, fair, and impartial elections.

It is agreed on all hands that by and large, no malpractices were reported from any part of the country, and wealth and casteism did not play the roles that they did in the previous elections. The result is that candidates have been elected on the basis of their personal merits as evidenced by the fact that several big names have been defeated and a substantial number of comparatively young legislators have been elected. At the same time, one also comes across some familiar faces who have again been returned for their commitment to Islam and to the good of the people. Political observers believe that by voting in favor of this new, energetic, and dynamic leadership the people have given ample proof of their political awareness.

The observers point out that the new leadership consists predominantly of the educated people and is representative of trades and avocations varying from lawyers to teachers, from doctors to scholars, from engineers to administrators, and from former soldiers to religious divines, all of whom are motivated by the urge to accelerate the pace of Islamization in the country and develop it into a democratic Islamic welfare state. A preliminary analysis of the voting pattern in the constituencies of which the results have been announced shows an impressive voter turnout which compares very well with the turnout registered in the earlier elections.

Khomeyni Meets Khamene'i, Pilgrims' Supervisor

LD251239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] This morning President Khamene'i, head of the Supreme Defense Council, met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Musavi Kho'iniha, representative of the imam and supervisor of pilgrims also met with the imam of the ummah today.

Khamene'i Receives Report on POW's in Iraq

LD251811 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — Members of the Commission in Support of Iranian POW's and Those Missing in Action (MIA's) met with President Khamene'i here today. They presented a report on the condition of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

In this meeting Khamene'i said the issue of the POW's was a humanitarian one and that the situation of both Iranian and Iraqi POW's must be paid attention to. President Khamene'i also lashed out at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its partiality on the issue. The president also proposed that a POW's day be declared.

Khamene'i Addresses Public Relations Officers

LD251814 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — In a meeting here today with a group of visiting staffers of public relations offices of government organizations President Khamene'i called on them to establish a continuous and wholesome contact with the people and be truthful and sincere when telling them about the operation of their respective government ministries.

Khamene'i said the masses may not need to know every detail about what is going on in this or that government organization, but that they must be informed of whatever news which tend to inspire them with momentum for bolstering the Islamic Revolution.

He said publicity work is a delicate one which if handled awkwardly or by unskilled people would disrepute rather than dignify the organization.

He said he remembers to have read publicity materials with more ruinous impact than promotion capacity or heard news or commentaries on the radio or television which have bordered on absurdity because of extravagant praise of a language which is out of good taste.

He recommended that the people involved in public relations departments of government organizations be receptive to the people and allow them to voice their opinions.

President Khamene'i also advised that the printing of redundant public relations bulletins published by the various government organizations be discontinued, but that purely novel work in publications be allowed to foster.

Musavi on Public Relations, Propaganda Program

LD241632 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, on the first day of the convening of the center's public relations seminar, the seminar participants met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

In this meeting, the deputy for international relations of the Islamic Guidance Ministry began by presenting a report on how this seminar came to be organized. Then, in the course of some remarks, Musavi stated: The imam of the Islamic nation has continuously stressed from the start of the revolution until now the importance of cultural affairs to society. Today we can see that many of the weaknesses in cultural matters have been eliminated and even if all the work being done within the cultural and educational sphere may not be so fitting according to the Islamic Revolution, we have some measure of success in this area.

The prime minister added: Public relations are one of the most important and fundamental aspects of every one of the organs in which officials have contacts with the people, and in part these contacts take shape through the press. Unfortunately sometimes there is a weakness in public relations when no effective steps have been taken to establish close relations with the press. It is the press' job to deliver interesting news to people. If it thought that newspapers should be writing things just for the sake of public relations, this is incorrect.

Further on in his remarks, the prime minister noted: Some of our officials have a great degree of sensitivity toward the work of the press and the mass media, for the media can play a fundamental role in raising the level of people's alertness in connection with the programs of the revolution, in providing protection to them, and in demoralizing counterrevolutionaries. Musavi stressed: Anyone in a responsible position in Islamic society must have a feeling for people's problems in order to find solutions for them and he must be able to assess the problems and pass the information on to the proper officials. This is one of the basic duties in public relations. The public relations officials must be the people most sensitive and alert toward the society, and in order to eliminate society's problems, they should provide assistance and suggest programs.

Musavi also stressed the need for the exchange of experience among public relations officials, and reminded that in order to raise the quality of public relations officials responsible for the organs must place adequate information on their own programs and operations at the disposal of the organs. The prime minister added: We are being attacked more on the propaganda fronts than any others and the soldiers of this front are the officials in charge and the employees of public relations and the mass media. The prime minister, by referring to the elaborate programs and boasting of the world arrogance media against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, added: These programs are in no way a coincidence.

It is no accident that when the Red Cross issues lies against us, all the world's media mobilize to soil the reputation of this revolution. What has caused the enemy's propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran to fail up to now has been the alertness

of the people, who, with their faith in the imam, the clergy, and officials, have neutralized the enemy's propaganda.

In conclusion, the prime minister noted up to now, in connection with confronting the enemy's propaganda, we have not had a structured program. If we can use a structured form and work through public relations and the mass media against the cultural violations of the enemies of the revolution, the results of our work in neutralizing these conspiracies will surely be greater. By pointing out that it is a lie that there is freedom of the press in the countries of the Western and Eastern blocs, and that there is no relation between the newspapers' contents with its respective government officials, our newspapers must adopt a strong stand in confronting these affiliated press and mass media. We must continuously have a sharp and cutting tongue against the enemies of the revolution and our newspapers must perform their independent roles well in this connection.

Further Concerning UN Report on POW Treatment

UN Envoy 'Not Disappointed'

LD251926 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Washington, Feb. 25, IRNA — Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Seyed Rajaie-Khorasani Monday said he was not disappointed with the recent U.N. report on the conditions of POW's in Iran and Iraq but thought that the report downplayed positive aspects of the status of the Iraqi POW's in Iran while missing out on the negative aspects of Iranian camps in Iraq.

Khorasani said the report was basically neutral although it did quote persons who condemned the crimes of the Iraqi regime. He said the report's criticism of Iran's POW camps was minor, such as, shortage of showers and an abundance of Islamic literature in the camps' libraries.

But Khorasani said the report failed to fully explain the shortages at Iraqi POW camps for Iranians although it said Iraqi treatment of Iranian POW's was "merciless" and that they (Iraq) "punished" their captives. The report also failed to mention the number of educational, sports and cultural facilities that existed at Iranian camps, he said.

On the Gorgan POW camp incident Khorasani said despite our expectations the issue was only implicitly mentioned in the report. Two groups of Iraqi POW's fought pitched battles in northeastern Gorgan camp after International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] representatives provoked some prisoners with their questioning. Khorasani said that in a bid to have a moderate and neutral stand the U.N. report had tried to exonerate the ICRC. But the report does quote a rumor among Gorgan POW's that the ICRC officials wanted to collect information on POW's opposed to the Iraqi regime, he added.

Khorasani said the report loses its neutrality when it claims that Iran is imposing its ideas on the POW's. The U.N. delegates who compiled the data should have reported the actual behaviour of the POW's leaving judgement to the reader, Khorasani said.

The delegates did not take into account the realities concerning relations between the Iraqi regime and its former troops, and thought Iraqi POW's should have the same patriotism towards the Iraqi regime as Iranian POW's have towards their government, he said.

Radio Commmentary on Report

LD231609 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The latest report of the UN Organization — another document condemning the Iraqi regime — is the subject of our first political commentary today:

Following the 2-week trip by members of the fact-finding mission of the UN secretary general on the conditions of Iraqi and Iranian POW's that ended on 19 January, a report has been issued by this mission. The fact that there was a 4-week delay in the publication of this report intensified the probability that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] put pressure on the United Nations so it would alter the text of this report on the conditions of Iraqi POW's in Iran and about the incident in Gorgan camp. It is also probable that world arrogance, in order to tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, created obstacles in the presentation of the original text of the mission's report.

With all these pressures and obstacles involved in the preparation of the UN secretary general's fact-finding mission's report, any sound-minded and alert person can detect from its contents the nature of the behavior of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Iraqi regime toward POW's, and can discover the biased stance of the International Red Cross toward the condition of Iraqi POW's in Iran.

Part of this report confirms on the one hand that in Iraqi camps the captured Iranian combatants have experienced mistreatment and aggression, and on the other charges Iran with using ideological and religious pressures against Iraqi POW's. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of Iraqi POW's are Muslims, and if the offer of opportunities to Iraqi POW's is to be termed ideological and religious pressure, then the Iranian authorities count this an action of orientation in the man-molding ideological school of Islam in their conduct toward POW's, and they also consider this a source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran. But it is clearly obvious that by flagrantly equating the Iraqi regime's clear mistreatment of Iranian POW's with the accusation against Iran of putting religious pressure on Iraqi POW's, the imperialist mass media's huge propaganda is seeking to tarnish the good name of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another part of this report, mentioning the incident that occurred last Mehr [23 September-22 October 1984] states: The UN mission is not able to confirm massacres in Iranian POW camps. At present, taking note of the report of the Red Cross delegation that accused Iran of killing Iraqi POW's, this question arises: Should not the chief of the ICRC and those responsible for the preparation of these fabrications be taken to task by the

international forums, especially by the UN Organization? Therefore Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister, in his remarks on the report of the UN fact-finding mission, stated: If the Red Cross is really impartial, it must immediately take its own chief to task for his blatantly untrue statement and make him clearly admit to his errors.

Meanwhile, the publication of this report has been incompletely reported by Western agencies with the ultimate aim of charging Iran with similar accusations directed at Iraq. Furthermore, these same news centers have declared that according to the UN report it has been advised that steps should be taken, especially in Iraq, to prevent the continuous use of force by camp guards against Iranian POW's, and in Iran, to refrain from bringing ideological and religious pressure on Iraqi POW's.

But no explanations have been given about the expression "ideological and religious pressures." This mission has also called on Iraq and Iran to take steps toward the unilateral and bilateral release of POW's within the framework of international laws, whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran, while releasing groups of injured Iraqi POW's, has announced that if the Iraqi regime agrees, it is ready to release more Iraqi POW's in exchange for Iranian POW's.

Commentary on Iraq's Record

GF241130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Commentary by the research group of the Central News Unit: "The UN Report Is Further Evidence of the Imperialists' Lies"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. The publication several days ago of the report of the UN secretary general's fact-finding mission on the conditions of Iranian and Iraqi POW's has drawn the attention of the world's news circles.

This 80-page report, which was published after a prolonged delay, that is, 4 weeks after the completion of the tour by the UN team of POW camps in Iran and Iraq, openly confirms the use of force, torture, and repression inflicted on Iranian POW's in Iraq.

The report adds in this context that the mission did not observe any evidence to prove the Iraqi allegations regarding Iranian maltreatment of prisoners in Gorgan camp and could not find anything to confirm the Iraqi claims of a massacre or killing of individuals in this camp. This position, besides exposing the false propaganda of Iraq, is also an outright and undeniable rejection of the utterances of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to rebut the political and propagandistic conspiracy which for some time was sustenance for the falsehood-disseminating imperialist media, took a stance and announced that they were willing to agree to the inspection of Iraqi and Iranian POW's by an international team so that it might transpire just how close the utterances of the Red Cross are to the truth.

This report, however, does not mention that many of those who are being subjected to repression and torture under the appellation of a prisoner of war are not military personnel but in fact ordinary citizens of towns and border villages who were transferred to that country during the Iraqi regime's onslaught. Other facts enumerated regarding the inhuman subjection of POW's to barbaric tactics in the war such as chemical weapons attacks, the genocide of civilians with 9-meter-long missiles, and the bombing of residential areas are the issues that have not been categorically or seriously tackled in reports published so far, although all the aforementioned facts have been referred to from time to time and alluded to and confirmed during the course of visits by quite a few UN teams.

Our country has followed with great honor a policy of taking the greatest care to provide comfort and convenience to the prisoners and to give them the optimum facilities of daily life. This is because in our culture a prisoner is not considered in the same sense of the word as in other parts of the world but is a guest because, as is well-known, Islam ordains that the treatment of guests be cordial. The implementation of this policy is the reason for the increasing leaning of Iraqi POW's towards Islam and its higher teachings which has resulted in their attending ideological ceremonies such as Friday prayers not out of duress but due to their own inclinations. Incidentally, this was the only example of so-called Iranian maltreatment of the POW's in the recent UN report.

It is interesting to note that this has been mentioned in the UN report and in this regard it would be appropriate to quote from the context because it is axiomatic and self-explanatory. The report says: Steps should be taken, especially in Iraq, to prohibit the constant use of force by camp guards against Iranian POW's, and in Iran, to refrain from putting ideological and religious pressure on Iraqi POW's.

The United Nations also recommended that the two nations prepare for greater exchanges of POW's. This is controversial, at least in present circumstances. Our authorities had announced their intention to unilaterally release 31 disabled Iraqi POW's, but so far no response has been received. This decision, besides Iran's repeated suggestions for the exchange of POW's which has been followed up since 1983, provides ample evidence of our stance on the exchange of POW's. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the Islamic Republic of Iran had officially informed international authorities in 1983 that it was ready to permit the immediate members of the families of Iraqi POW's to come to Iran to meet their relatives. Arrangements were made under this plan for the accommodation of 200,000 families of POW's. The Iraqi regime accepted this verbally, but in practice it refrained from accepting it because it entailed immense political and propagandistic problems, and because it would have been forced to take a reciprocal step on the international level.

International media and organizations did not react to Iraq's evasion of this issue; in fact, no one was even ready to talk about it. But the same media and organizations created a furor and a hue and cry all over the world over the false allegations by the chief of the ICRC based on Iran's maltreatment of Iraqi POW's. Fortunately, this has been exposed by the latest UN report which itself has created a clamor and furor all over the world, and, as

always, has created an opportunity for sympathy with the infidel Iraqi regime.

Turkish Press Criticized

LD251630 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — Editorials published in Iranian newspapers Monday sharply criticised the Turkish press for "sly exposure" of the U.N. report on the conditions of POW's in Iran and Iraq.

The morning daily *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* pointed out that there are many deep religious and cultural ties between the people in Iran and in Turkey but advised the government there to stop the anti-Islamic Republic reports in the press if there was a desire for continuing friendly relations with Iran. In its editorial, the paper said the Turkish press took sides with the Baghdad regime and downplayed crimes committed by the regime against Iranian POW's.

"The Iranian people do not expect the Turkish press to support the just stance of the Islamic Republic, but neither does it expect them to be at constant war with the truth," the paper said in its front page editorial.

The paper, which is the official organ of Islamic Republic Party, also said the Iranian people never wished the Turkish Government to put pressure on the press, but that they do expect the Turkish Government to prevent the publication of reports "that make the enemies of the Turkish and Iranian people happy."

"Turkey's political situation is clear enough for everyone to see and Turkish officials can not claim they have no control over their press," the daily added.

The international editorial writer in *KAYHAN* newspaper also criticised Turkish journalists, saying the Turkish press reports on Iranian developments "are worse than those published by Iran's main enemies."

While there are tremendous problems in Turkey and around the world, it is amazing the press in Turkey are so free as to "lock in on Iranian issues," the editorial said.

"If Turkish journalists are coming out...in the battle field," it said "we too have a lot of things to say (about Turkey), things that are reasonable, based on principle and based on truth — terrible truth that is fire and will burn many". [sentence as received] The Islamic Republic of Iran wished to have trade with its neighbours but if the Turkish press show enmity towards it, then Iranis not "forced to always remain a friend and a big trading partner," it added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Turkish Press

LD251809 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday sharply criticized print media in Turkey for willfuly misinterpreting a recent report filed by a U.N. enquiry commission to Tehran and Baghdad on the status of the prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq.

He said while the U.N. report suggested a biased tone against Iran and while it had charged the Islamic Republic with the exercise of ideological pressure upon te Iraqi POW's in Iran it had levelled such vague charges only to counterbalance its own account of physical torture upon the Iranian POW's by their Iraqi captors.

The Hojjat ol-Eslam who was talking to a visiting group of the staffers of the public relations offices of government organizations said the print media in Turkey have been "the most wretched of all" in their misconstruction of the implications of the report of the U.N. enquiry commission since the media has deliberately misconstrued Iran's human efforts for the spiritual and moral refinement of the Iraqi POW's as acts of torture.

He said print media in Turkey has been seemingly disgruntled with the status of the Iraqi POW's in Iran simply because as the Turkish media have put it "the Iraqi POW's in Iran are under ideological pressure."

"The reflection on the development," said the Hojjat ol-Eslam, "by some media is so unfair. It is even nauseating. And the most wretched of them is the Turkish print media which incidentally pretend to be our 'friends'".... They have secreted as much venom in the Turkish papers (against the Islamic Republic) as they ever could."

The Majlis speaker said elsewhere in his address to the group of the visiting people that the only part of the U.N. report which tends to be critical of Iran in relation with her treatment of the Iraqi POW's is that Iran has subjected the Iraqi POW's to ideological pressures.

"We take pride in doing so," said the Hojjat ol-Eslam, "they (the U.N. enquiry commission) meant to criticize us by their peculiar interpretation of what we have been doing, but in reality they have as though praised us."

He said rather than resort to coercive measures, the Iranian captors of the Iraqi POW's as well as the people, the print and broadcast media in Iran have encountered the Iraqi POW's with a great deal of good-will and affinity and that the Iraqi POW's have been under the spell of the human behaviour of their Iranian captors.

The Majlis speaker said that the spiritual reformation of the Iraqi POW's in Iran has been the product of a brotherly behaviour with them.

He said if the Iraqi POW's had been forced by their Iranian captors to abjure their former beliefs they would not then be so firm in their new beliefs as to prompt them to kill another group of dissenting Iraqi POW's in their own camps.

He added the mere fact that a small group of the Iraqi POW's in the prisoners camp have continued to maintain their own personal outlooks as they had before their captivity, speaks for the total absence of any coercive indoctrination in the camps.

Ardabili Addresses Envoys to Africa, Mideast

LD242344 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24 IRNA — In a meeting with home-coming Iranian ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Arab and African countries and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today, Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said the High Judiciary Council would be willing to extend a helpful hand to them so that the Iranian Embassy officials abroad would better inform foreign nationals of facts about the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic.

He said the foreign media have long since been waging a propaganda war against the Islamic Revolution and that therefore it is imperative that the Iranian emissaries abroad should make harder efforts for neutralising the hostile propaganda against the revolution.

The ayatollah also advised that the task of appointing ambassadors and Iran's diplomatic corps abroad be fulfilled with due respect to the criteria which Prophet Mohammad (SAW) had observed in appointing his personal emissaries abroad.

Montazeri Speaks on Use of Rural Theologians

LD221655 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA — Ayatollah Montazeri Thursday stressed further use of rural theologians and scholars for teaching Islamic ideology at rural primary and high schools. Speaking to a group of people from various walks of life, the ayatollah added that facilities should be provided for the Sunni Muslims so that their religious principles could be thought them by Sunni theologians devoted and committed to the Islamic Revolution. [sentence as received]

He also stressed devotion and competency as criteria for employing persons, reminding that people should be given time to be beneficial and constructive so that the country could improve and its weak points eradicated.

Jannati Speaks on Spreading Islamic 'Propaganda'

GF241137 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Ayatollah Jannati, member of the Council of Guardians and head of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, is in Hormozgan Province to review propaganda activities there and also to take part in a seminar of Islamic propaganda officials from all over the country.

Jannati, who has arrived in Bandar-e 'Abbas, took part in an exclusive interview with a correspondent from the Central News Unit yesterday morning. He fully explained the activities of the Islamic Propaganda Organization, both inside and outside the country.

During the interview, Ayatollah Jannati said there are many publications in various languages being published and distributed by this organization in American, European and Asian countries as well as in other parts of the world. He said these publications contained the messages of the Islamic Revolution, events of the revolution, peculiarities of Islamic culture, and the history of the Islamic world.

He said these publications have received great publicity in various parts of the world. Jannati said: With the cooperation of the Islamic Ministry of Guidance, Foreign Ministry, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other organizations and government departments, the propaganda representatives of the Islamic Propaganda Organization in various parts of the world are very active in guidance and propaganda affairs. They spread Islamic culture and organize Islamic cultural activities outside the country.

In this regard the Iranian students studying abroad must be thanked. At the end of his interview, Ayatollah Jannati commented on the evil propaganda triangle of the United States, Iraq, and regional reactionaries.

He said: By undertaking cultural and propaganda programs, and also by organizing special seminars, and with our perpetual presence in the world propaganda scene, their plots become useless. God willing, the message of the Islamic Revolution will be more and more widely disseminated among the people of the world and among those with positive attitudes.

PRC's Zhang Jingfu Arrives for Economic Talks

LD261137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu, heading a 23-member delegation which includes four deputy members from the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, and the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System, arrived in Tehran this morning.

He was welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Aqazadeh, the PRC ambassador in Tehran, the Islamic Republic Ambassador in Beijing, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials and officials from other ministries.

On his arrival in Tehran he spoke to a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of Iran, expressing his pleasure at the visit.

He said: I bear a friendly message from the Chinese people for the Iranian nation. Considering that both the PRC and the Islamic Republic are Third World countries and pursue common goals, we are certain that our bilateral cooperation has great potential.

Referring to the PRC's basic policies toward other countries, based on equality, mutual interest, selection of different forms in relations and also reciprocal expansion of relations, he said: Based on these principles, we intend to hold talks and exchange views with the Islamic Republic of Iran officials on various issues, the expansion of commercial, scientific and industrial matters, and also other bilateral topics.

Britain Delivers Two Troop Transport Ships

LD251856 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] London, Feb 25, IRNA — Two troop-carrying vessels ordered from Britain in 1977 were delivered to Iranian representatives at the Scottish port of Glasgow Saturday [23 February].

An Iranian Navy official told IRNA here that the 2,500-ton vessels, *Lavan* and *Tonb*, had been purchased from the state-owned British company I.M.S., which had refused to deliver them after the Islamic Revolution.

"But since all costs had been paid, the British Government was not able to stop their delivery," he said. He said the vessels would sail towards Iranian waters in the next few months.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,015

LD251744 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25, IRNA — Nearly 50 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the southern sector of the battle fronts early in the morning Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique No. 2015 said today the clash occurred at 2:30 a.m. Saturday (23:00 GMT Friday) in the Eynkhosh front in the border region of Khuzestan Province "when an enemy unit had intended to launch an offensive operation." The clash lasted for one hour and "the attacking enemy unit was crushed" it said.

In other fronts in the south, six enemy soldiers were killed and six of their bunkers were destroyed under the fire of the Islamic forces across the Arvand River, and sporadic fire was traded elsewhere.

The communique said some losses and casualties were inflicted on the Iraqi forces in the central sector of the war front, as the heaviest fire was exchanged in the Maymak front of Ilam Province.

In the northern sector, one Iraqi anti-aircraft gun was demolished and a number of its personnel were killed or wounded.

Iranians Deported From Kuwait Tell of 'Torture'

LD241546 Tehran IRNA in English 1144 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24 IRNA — Five Iranians expelled from Kuwait a few days ago after undergoing nine months of imprisonment and torture, in an interview on Saturday explained details of their ordeal and the conduct of the Kuwaiti security officials with them.

'Abolhasan 'Ameri, one of the five, said that he was arrested at his work nine months ago by the Kuwaiti secret police, and moved from one prison to another for about nine months without any explanation until "I staged a hunger strike demanding trial." Since the kangaroo court did not have any documents against me, he said, I was acquitted but despite this I was kept at Kuwaiti dungeons for nine days until they expelled me.

Hasan 'Abedi, another of them with signs of torture on his hands, said that he was kept at a 170 by 100 cm cell lacking air vent. He added he was afflicted with laboured breathing several times and was transferred to hospital unconscious but was returned to his cell immediately after without being completely treated. He said he was even deprived of hygienic facilities and described his being alive as a miracle.

The Kuwaiti security officials and police always insulted the officials of the Islamic Republic in their interrogations, said Gholam Abbas-e Asadpur. He, who still has signs of torture on his back, said they wanted him to confess to things he did not know anything about by torturing him.

A 50-year old man, Abolhasan Eslami who was also tortured by Kuwaiti officials told IRNA that he was arrested without any reasons after 28 years of residence in that country and was expelled after nine months of imprisonment without having any visitors.

He said that the Kuwaiti regime supports Iranian counterrevolutionaries, especially the monarchists, and imposes pressure upon the devoted Muslims. This measure is just due to the fear of the regime from Islam. He added that when the Kuwaiti regime failed to justify its detainment even through its kangaroo courts, two of the persons arrested with him, including a 60 year old one, were sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment.

Referring to the spread of corruption in Kuwait, he said that being a Muslim was regarded as a sin, adding that a clear reason for this was that a great number of Afghan Muslim mujahidin were kept in Kuwaiti prisons and it wanted to hand them over to the ruling Afghan regime. It also intended to submit the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin who are being kept at Kuwaiti prisons to the Iraqi regime.

An Arab citizen of Khuzestan, Kazem Dahmai Bu'dar, who was a resident of Kuwait for 20 years and who even could not speak Farsi fluently, said that Kuwaiti security agents entered his house 13 months ago and finding a Nahjul Balagha (a collection of Imam Ali's (AS) sermons) and three pictures of Imam Khomeyni, detained him for 13 months on this charge. His family was expelled from Kuwait after his arrest, he said.

He added that such punishments were being carried out against them at a time that Abdol Khafir, a man who imported 600 boxes of alcoholic beverages from Iraq for the use of the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait, was fined to pay 70 Kuwaiti dinars only. Bu'dar was asked to confess under torture that he was a member of "Imam Khomeyni party" and that he was engaged in Islamic propaganda there. After seven months of confinement, he was tried at a court and was sentenced to six months of imprisonment without counting his pre-trial detention period.

Protest Lodged With Kuwait

LD251214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Because of the ill treatment of Iranian residents in Kuwait by the Kuwaiti Government, and inhumane arrests and tortures

some of them suffered, as well as the illegal arrest and torture of five of these individuals, of whom four have been cleared of charges and one is still imprisoned, this morning Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry to receive a protest note. The note says:

Following the unjustified arrests and roundup of a large number of Iranian residents of Kuwait, some 9 months ago five Iranians residing in Kuwait were arrested by Kuwaiti Government security authorities and imprisoned and tortured in the most inhumane conditions. Their names are; Abolhasan 'Ameri, Hasan 'Abedi, Gholam Abbas-e Asadpur, Abolhasan Eslami, and Hoseyn Sadeqi.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while strongly condemning such baseless, illegal, and lengthy imprisonments and the tormenting or torturing of Iranian residents of that country, and in particular the above-named persons, strongly protests the varied tortures. These tortures include extracting nails, tying chains around legs, and hitting with cables, all of which have been applied contrary to every international code, causing marks that the victims still bear. The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic deems it necessary that the Kuwaiti Government provide explanations for the imprisonment and torture of the above-named persons, of whom four were acquitted by the Kuwaiti courts and then imprisoned for a further 9 days while the fifth, although innocent, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labor with no reason provided.

Further, it is approporiate that in the case of the 60-year-old innocent old man, Hoseyn Sadeqi, who is in frail health and whose family's defense lawyer has not been allowed to be present at the court to prove his innocence, revisions should be made and his release arranged as soon as possible.

INA: Iran's Oil Prices Cut, Production Down

JN231058 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Vienna, 23 Feb (INA) — Informed oil sources in Vienna have stressed that Iran's oil prices are still below the official OPEC price of $28 a barrel and that Iranian oil is being sold for $25 to $25.5 a barrel. In a statement to an INA correspondent in Vienna today, the sources said Iran gives its customers a discount of about $2 a barrel, in addition to $1 to cover the risk of entering Iranian ports. They indicated that with these reduc tions Iran hopes to compensate for the big losses it sustained recently, particularly last month when its exports dropped sharply to about 400,000 barrels a day due to the Iraqi military siege.

The same sources added that after it had become risky for the international carriers to dock at Khark Island, Iran is currently guiding these carriers to Sirri Island, which is outside the Strait of Hormuz, in order to obtian oil that is transported by Iran from Khark to Sirri in small vessels. The sources emphasized that although Sirri Island is outside the exclusion zone announced by Iraq, Iran is showing great flexibility in the prices of its oil that is exported from there in an attempt to make up for its losses. This island's oil is being sold for $26 to $27 a barrel.

Concluding, the oil sources said that Sirri cannot compensate Iran for Khark because of its limited oil production that does not exceed 500,000 barrels a day, while Khark Island's production capacity is more than 2 million barrels a day.

Afghan 'Refugees' Protest Soviet Occupation

LD221827 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Pr. Feb. 22, IRNA — A large number of Afghan Muslim mujahidin and refugees residing here, staged a demonstration Friday marking the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Kabul against the Soviet occupiers.

In a resolution issued at the end of this ceremony condemning the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, it was said that the Islamic Revolution, led by Imam Khomeyni, is a major happening in the history of Islam.

Warning the Soviet occupiers, the resolution said: "We demand an unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and we will fight for Islam and the Islamic Revolution till the last drop of our blood."